



City of Middletown Newsletter

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Mayors Office

I would like to welcome you to our first City Newsletter. The goal of this newsletter is to keep you informed monthly on what is occurring within the City and in the individual departments. We have a lot of events happening throughout the City and feel that the newsletter will provide a clear and accurate account of the monthly happenings. Keep an eye out each month for our newsletter, for new information, that might be relevant to you and your family. I also have a new [Facebook](#) page at www.facebook.com/mayordaniel.drew where I'll be updating events around Middletown and things I'm doing around town. At any time, if you have any questions regarding information in these newsletters, please don't hesitate to contact the individual departments.

Arts & Culture

July marks the annual return of the Middletown Commission on the [Arts' Summer Sounds Series](#). This long-running series takes place on Tuesdays from the beginning of July into the 1st week of September on the South Green (Union Park) in Middletown's downtown (rain location is the sanctuary of South Congrega-

tional Church. The concerts are free and you are encouraged to bring lawn chairs/blankets. Food and beverages are allowed although no alcohol is permitted on public lawns such as the South Green. The United Methodist Church and South Congregational

Church both sell food/beverage items and are adjacent to the Green. We are proud of the diversity of the musical offerings this year as they represent a wide spectrum of styles. You should be able to find something that sparks your interest somewhere among the different bands and the music they play. Go to our website for dates of performances. For more information, call the City Arts Office at 860.343.6620 x201 or visit arts2go.org for all the latest on the arts in Middletown. And don't forget to look inside this calendar for all the other great outdoor (and indoor!) performances taking place in Middletown in July. We look forward to your participation and we welcome your comments. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. August brings the wrap up events of our summer Kids Arts programs, the Creative Arts Workshops showcase on Aug. 1 at 5 p.m. at The Buttonwood Tree and the Children's Circus on Aug. 3 at 5 pm at Macdonough School. Go to the Arts website for dates of performances. www.middletownCT.gov click on Departments then Arts.

Central Communications

The Central Communication Center processed over 2,000 emergency 911 calls in June. In addition to emergency telephone calls almost 6,500 non-emergency calls were answered. The 911 calls produced over 4,200 incidents for Police and Fire to respond to in Middletown and Portland. These numbers are below average when compared to 2011 yearly statistics.

IT

IT Department has started infrastructure upgrades in all City buildings. This new wiring work will serve as the platform for all voice, data, and video traffic for the next 15 years. The Water and Sewer system is moving forward on schedule. The targeted date for deployment is Labor Day, with the new semi-annual bills in October coming out of the new system. This system will integrate completely with the radio readers, and the City's financial system. The City's public safety software system is moving into phase 2. We have operated the new software in the dispatching center for 15 months with zero minutes of unplanned downtime. This is a dramatic improvement over the previous system. According to the Finance Department, this is the first year in at least 30 years that the computer system was available for use by the departments in the new fiscal year within 4 days. This process used to take weeks to complete. The City is going to increase the data network bandwidth to all city facilities to accommodate new networking needs. This represents an increase of 30 times the capacity for less than a 10% increase in price.

Legal/Risk Management

The City continues to promote employee wellness. Employees who are covered by the City's Aetna medical plan have been offered the opportunity to participate in several wellness initiatives. The current Weight Watchers at Work program meets every Friday at noon at City Hall, Zumba class takes place on Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. at the AME Zion Church, a few lunch & learn workshops were held in June covering the topics of diabetes and cholesterol – these workshops were led by Middlesex Hospital nutritionist, Ginny Pettinicci, and most recently the City has invited Fat Loss Coach Rob Nevins to come and speak to employees about his Living Lean weight loss program. The

City plans to continue its efforts to create a healthier workforce by offering different wellness initiatives with the ultimate goal of lowering the cost of its employee health benefits program.

MAT

MAT is working on increasing the number of times (runs) that we service Portland/East Hampton. We are also trying to add a Saturday service. The process involves conducting a survey of the passengers that ride that route, hold a public hearing and then submit a request to the Connecticut Department of Transportation for permission based on the outcome of the surveys and public hearing. Available funding from the State is the main issue for approval. Cameras have been installed on most of the bus and van fleet for the protection of both passengers and drivers. A GPS system has also been installed to help MAT customer service better serve the ridership. Three new buses have been put into service. Meriden and Portland/East Hampton now have a dedicated full size bus. This will ease the congestion on both routes.

Parking

The Parking Services Department is excited to offer 2 new ways to pay for an outstanding parking ticket. Beginning July 16th, those with outstanding violations will be able to pay their tickets online through the City's web site. Also, those with outstanding violations can pay 24/7 by phone at 1.866.814.2225. Both services have a convenience fee but provide today's active individuals with quick and easy payment methods. Within the next two months the department will also unveil online permit parking renewals. With a click of a button or quick call, an individual can take care of their tickets or permits. This is just one aspect of parking services we're working to improve. We are actively upgrading all public parking signage and security systems to ensure people feel safe when they use our facilities.

Parks/Recreation

All sports fields are open for the season and all parks are opened through No-

vember 30, 2012. Picnic facilities are now available; please contact the Parks Office to make your reservation. Parks, walking trails, Vet's Pool, Crystal Lake and Playgrounds are available for your enjoyment. The adult walking program continues its successful week day program at Wesleyan University. Sign up for adult evening exercise or water fitness held on Monday and Thursday's at Woodrow Wilson Middle School. Vet's Pool swim team is running their successful summer program along with our rowing program. Please feel free to request or teach a new program and contact us regarding our updated Bus Trips which are also online. The Recreation Supervisor Ray Jacobs passed away unexpectedly; the department is accepting donations in his memory. All donations will be used to send a child to a summer camp or program. For additional information, or to view our spring and Summer Brochure for a complete listing of all programs, parks and fields and other updates at www.MiddletownCT.gov go to Departments click on Parks and Recreation Department.

Public Works

New solar powered trash compactors and recycling bins have been installed in the north end of Main Street. The compactors have been purchased with a Community Development Block Grants. Attached to each trash compactor is a recycling bin where people passing by can recycle their containers "on the go". The Middletown Resource Recycling Adviso-



ry Committee has also initiated a zero waste initiative to increase recycling and source reduction efforts throughout the City. The program will include waste

audits at various locations to measure the types of wastes that are generated and identify ways to improve recycling and save money. The effort will also be working with businesses to further the City's Green Business for 2012. Our website is www.middletownct.gov go to Departments, click on Recycling Information.

Russell Library

The Russell Library is open 9am-8:30pm Monday - Thursday, 9:00am-6:00pm on Fridays, and 9am-1pm on summer Saturdays. The Russell Library offers a variety of services and programs. The library offers programs for all ages, from story telling for ages 3-6, to teen writing and their annual Summer Reading Programs this year, which are *Dream Big!* and *Own the Night!* The library also offers information and prep classes for job interviews, resume building and other programs. For a full list of programs they offer please visit www.russelllibrary.org or call 860.347.4048. To view the newslet-



ter with a detailed description of programs and events you can visit www.russelllibrary.org, go to News & Events and select **Russell Reminder Newsletter**.

Senior Center

The Center provides free first Wednesday entertainment. The Center is offering a seminar on skin cancer on July 18th at 2:30 p.m. and one on Medicare on July 25th at 2:30 p.m. Haircuts are now being offered as well. Coupons for the Farmer's Market are now available and a specialist is available for ADA and Municipal Agent concerns. Call the Senior Center at 860.344.3513 to have our newsletter, which includes all of our daily programming at the Center, mailed to your resi-

dence. Check the Middletown Press every Monday for our weekly events.

Tax Assessor

The 2013 revaluation of property for tax purposes is still well over a year away from going into effect, but the City of Middletown has already started preparing for the process of data collection. Unlike prior revaluations, this revaluation will require the City to visit every property to gather information needed to determine its value. To assist in this process the City has contracted with Vision Government Solutions, Inc. Prior to visiting the property owners will receive a notification letter to let them know when data collectors will be working in their neighborhood. All data collectors will have a photo ID, and will be registered with the Assessor's office, and the Middletown Police Department. Data collection involves measuring all the structures on the property and a brief tour of the interior of the house to



list the various features of the house such as; physical condition, finished areas, number of rooms, bedrooms, bathrooms, fireplaces, etc. The Assessor's Office would like to ask for your cooperation by allowing the data collectors access to the property. Accurate data is crucial to an accurate assessment. In addition, accurate data is vital to Realtors, Insurance Companies, and Banking Institutions. Have you received a tax bill for a car you no longer own? The Assessor's Office can make adjustments to you bill so that you

only pay for the months that you owned the car. To receive an adjustment to your bill you must provide the Assessors with a copy of your plate receipt (showing cancellation of the Connecticut registration) AND; a copy of the bill of sale, a copy of the canceled title, a receipt from the junk dealer, a copy of the original registration of the person to whom the vehicle was sold or other forms as approved by the Assessor. Please contact the Assessor's Office with any questions!

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's Office has just finished licensing over 1700 dogs in the City! If you have not registered your dog, there is now a \$1 penalty fee for each month you



fail to license per State law. We are also getting ready for the statewide primary this August 14th. Voters in the City of Middletown that are registered democrats or republicans may vote for their choice for U.S. Senate to represent their parties at the general election November 6th. If you are unable to vote in person on August 14th, please contact the Town Clerk's Office on how to obtain a ballot. Our website is www.MiddletownCT.gov go to Departments, and click on Town Clerk.

Water/Sewer

The Water Department is pleased to announce the completion of the Westfield Area Intermediate Pressure Zone Project. The project has extended water

mains from the Cimarron Road Water Tank to the corner of Country Club Road and Middle Street. The new zone is essentially all properties west of Interstate 91. This high pressure water is then reduced in pressure and supplied to a new zone utilizing existing water mains. The new zone is essentially all properties west of Interstate 91. The net pressure increase is 15 to 20 pounds depending on time of day. While the pressure has been modestly raised to address pressure issues in the neighborhoods west of Atkins Street, water flow has been greatly enhanced, and allows for substantially better fire flow for public safety. Additionally, with a more direct connection to the source water of Higby Reservoir, this district will see fresher water with improved water quality. If home owners have any questions or concerns they can contact the Water Department at 860.343.8085.

Youth Services

Over a five day stretch during the week of June 11th, Middletown Youth Services convened members of our community, both youth and adults, to host conversations about growing up in Middletown. The stories from the close to 100 community members will be compiled into a one-of-a-kind performance piece which is scheduled to take place on October 17th at Middletown High School. The event will also serve as the release of the newest data from over 1,600 students grades 7-12 around their behaviors and attitudes. This data will serve as the first comparison to the initial survey in 2006, both of which were the largest in our city's history. For more information about supporting youth in Middletown please visit: www.assetpromise.org or follow MYSB through [facebook.com/mtownysb](https://www.facebook.com/mtownysb) or Twitter at @mtownysb. In July, the MYSB will release the 2012/13 Educational Incentive Challenge Grant which helps provide matching funds for after and out of school programs for Middletown youth. Please check www.middletownyouthservices.org for complete information.